

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? St Charles was represented by our Warren twp officer Everett Roling.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-158-001 Using the existing line to save farm land and wildlife.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-158-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-158-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: wild life

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Warren twp. Winona County, Minnesota.

We have not logged our woods, and release turkeys yearly. My husband has made
three ponds on our farm for the wildlife and we plant pine tree for small animal
shelter. We feel this line would defiantly hinder our work/enjoyment of wildlife.
Plus, moving equipment around poles and wire lines while farming doesn't sound
very fun...

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Please read above! We enjoy our peaceful land, we do not allow trappers, we
do not hunt. We do enjoy walks and rides looking for wildlife, paw prints and
eggs or babies, that's how we enjoy our family time on the farm.

I-158-002

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Everett stated it was very well presented and questions were very welcomed.

Thanks, Sue

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sue & Terry Hackbarth

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 25800 Morning Glory Dr

City: Winona

State: MN 55987 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 457 6395 #6 Sue

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

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Which meeting did you attend? CFC school

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Hunting land

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

1 mile north of Cochrane, 4 mi. East of Hwy 35

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-159-001

The only sensitive resources in the area
are the farm fields

I-159-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Yes

We need those power lines and dam all for it.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Leland Haeuser

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: W1530 Seifert Hill La.

City: Alma State: WI 54610 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608.248.2243

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Holden Township

Our township has the highest rating for soil production in the country. Taking acreage out of production, by damage or farming around, would not be good.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Most of the farmers in our township are good conservationists. They leave natural growth, including mature trees, along the property line for wildlife and birds. They preserve waterways and lowland areas. These would be eliminated by this project.

It makes more sense to use an established commercial/industrial corridor, like Highway 52, instead of disturbing exceptional farmland.

I-160-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-160-001

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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Which meeting did you attend?

Wanamingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: Livestock and cropland

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

1. What is the main purpose of the study?

2. What are the research objectives?

3. What is the research methodology?

4. What are the results of the study?

5. What are the conclusions of the study?

6. What are the limitations of the study?

7. What are the implications of the study?

8. What are the future research directions?

9. What are the strengths of the study?

10. What are the weaknesses of the study?

11. What are the contributions of the study?

12. What are the practical applications of the study?

13. What are the theoretical contributions of the study?

14. What are the policy implications of the study?

15. What are the ethical considerations of the study?

16. What are the funding sources of the study?

17. What are the acknowledgments of the study?

18. What are the references of the study?

19. What are the appendices of the study?

20. What are the footnotes of the study?

21. What are the glossary of the study?

22. What are the abbreviations of the study?

23. What are the symbols of the study?

24. What are the units of the study?

25. What are the variables of the study?

26. What are the hypotheses of the study?

27. What are the models of the study?

28. What are the frameworks of the study?

29. What are the theories of the study?

30. What are the concepts of the study?

31. What are the definitions of the study?

32. What are the assumptions of the study?

33. What are the delimitations of the study?

34. What are the scope of the study?

35. What are the boundaries of the study?

36. What are the parameters of the study?

37. What are the indicators of the study?

38. What are the measures of the study?

39. What are the methods of the study?

40. What are the techniques of the study?

41. What are the procedures of the study?

42. What are the steps of the study?

43. What are the phases of the study?

44. What are the stages of the study?

45. What are the periods of the study?

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Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mary Hagen

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 1361 Highway 246 Blvd.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): email lazykranck@frontiernet.net

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

5420 31ST Avenue S.W.
Rochester, MN 55902
July 5, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
11400 Independence Ave. S.W. MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: Cap X 2020 Rochester – LaCrosse 345 KV Project Routes B17 & B18 RUS EIS

Dear Ms Strength:

We support, respect, and appreciate the need to plan for the future and meet the growth demands for electrical services in S.E. Minnesota caused by the growth in both population and business in the area. Likewise, today's need for personal stress relief with quiet and solitude or leisure activities and leisure open space is a growing situation and priority in people's lives. Public and private recreational areas, residential sites close to nature, and adjacency to water away from the pressures of urban city living, is a highly sought after and premium commodity for this reason. This section of the Zumbro river valley and Lake Zumbro are the closest adjacency to Rochester and one of the few useable lakes and rivers in S.E. Minnesota. To run a 345 K.V. high pole power line through this rural community is a hard-core, maximum impact, incompatible industrial intrusion, and should not be done. What is the total impact?

- Personal impact: Purchased 80 acres to provide future personal home site and residential development at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars.
- Invested tens of thousands of dollars to create a roadway access over 2,400 feet long to building sites.
- Invested several thousand dollars to get electric services into property.
- I am very concerned about the visual as well as electrical and magnetic field impact on my use of this property, especially my location being developed as a home site. It is only 100 to 300 feet from the proposed route B18 center line.
- I am concerned about the noise issues that come with high power lines. Included is the power "hum" at quiet times and the "whistle" created by high winds along the bluffs. How disruptive are these items to the serenity of the valley?
- This portion of the bluff has a substantial iron content in the subsurface rock. (a mining company once owned it with the intent of mining iron ore.) How does this impact or extend the magnetic field influence?
- My property value, resale and future residential development potential will be substantially impaired with the power line running full length of the property. What is this loss?
- If necessary, I am prepared to hire appraisal and legal counsel to cause an adversarial take of the entire 80 acres due to the negative impacts if this route is chosen.
- Routing a major trunk power line through this location along the bluffs and across the Lake Zumbro would present a major negative visual impact both upstream and downstream through the heart of this beautiful, rural community setting. What is the magnitude of the impact on the quality of life in the adjacent area?

I-161-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-161-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-005

I-161-006

I-161-007

I-161-008

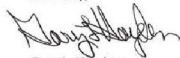
I-161-001

I-161-002

- I-161-003** • The bluffland zoning ordinance in this area is highly controlling for any visual impact or disruption to the bluffs. Construction of roads and buildings by individual landowners is prohibited in this zone for that reason. Should a power line be exempted from this policy/philosophy?
- I-161-009** • The Minnesota D.N.R. has previously considered and is currently pursuing a "scenic and wild river" formal designation for this area to preserve the natural beauty of the river, bluffs and valley for the benefit of the general public. How does the proposed power line fit it?
- Topography along this route rises up to 320 feet vertically from the river to the bluff top (El 860 – El. 1180).
- There are numerous steep slopes, cross slopes and ravines to be crossed with the route identified. Some slopes are in the 90 foot vertical rise per 100 foot horizontal distance category.
- I-161-010** • A portion of the soils along the river terraces are very sandy and highly erodible. Construction and maintenance traffic is detrimental and is an environmental risk. Currently there are locations in this area with serious erosion caused by past logging operations. What is the potential impact from the power line clearing, construction, and ongoing maintenance?
- I-161-011** • There is a longstanding occupied eagle's nest along this river bluff within 100 feet of route B18. Are high voltage power lines compatible with this and the waterfowl nesting areas along this river?
- I-161-012** • Maintenance access to service this area would be quite difficult. In addition to the slope and cross slope issues, there are few roads in the area. Access would need to come from the east end and travel the easement right of way over very rugged terrain for over a mile to access the westerly portions of this route. Is this the best route for maintenance needs?
- I-161-013** • There are two private Christian camps adjacent to our property: Camp Victory abuts our west property line and is a large growing summer camp for children and year around adult retreats. They have their primitive tent camping all along the bluff terrace where route B18 is proposed. Woodland Camp, a long established camp for children and adult groups lays full length along our south property line and would be significantly impacted by route B18. Route B18 goes directly through their camp and could well put them out of business. Is that appropriate and necessary?
- I-161-004** Notwithstanding, we suggest serious consideration of meeting the power grid expansion by utilizing existing roadway and utility easements and right of way, such as the County Highway 12 and 247 corridors that already disrupt the countryside environmentally. Another option would be to transverse this area further north at a location with lesser scenic bluffland, environmental, recreational, and residential impacts.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns and better understand the environmental impacts of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hayden

(507) 289-6744

I-161-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Bluffland ordinances are outside of the RUS jurisdiction, however the routing process will follow established statutes.

I-161-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-161-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from operational noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-013

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Stephanie A Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

July 13th, 2009

Dear Stephanie A Strength

I am writing you as a concerned citizen against CAPX2020 a 1.7 billion dollar high tower power transmission line that big energy companies are trying to force upon Minnesotans. Please do what you can to oppose this effort:

- I-162-001 | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-162-005 | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm — including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-162-002 | 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-162-003 | 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-162-006 | 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of hunting and fishing in SE Minnesota. The beauty in SE Minnesota is unmatched in the state. I also know many fine taxpaying citizens who live or have retired to this area. One I know in particular has the proposed power line cutting his beautiful farm in half, with the power line proposed over his home! This farm has been confirmed by the MN DNR to have rare endangered plants. What a shame if this fact is ignored! The cost of this project is not worth the destruction of such a beautiful area. If it must be built, which I question its necessity; it should follow already established corridors and highways.

Sincerely,

Janine Holter
610 Nelson Blvd
Montrose MN

I-162-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-162-002

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-162-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-162-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-162-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line, health and safety, socioeconomic resources, agriculture, wildlife, and vegetation will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-162-006

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list.

Which meeting did you attend? St Charles (-by proxy-)
MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need — Electricity Demand is falling past several years
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources — In Valley, Towers are 2 1/2 Valley Depth
- ☒ Proximity to residences — Too close to my house → decreases value
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) [See below]
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors) —
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites — Crosses very close to Native burial sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety — I have to drive under every day ~ 4x
- ☒ Other: Blinking Tower lights on 3 sides of me
as lines come off ridge - into valley & back up on another ridge

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- ① In Winona Transmission Lines Cross
Pleasant Valley (County Rd 17) Through
last open spaces in Area City of Winona has and
is annexing from Wilson Township - intended building
sites for ~ 500 homes.
- ② Crosses Native prairie, interferes with Mississippi
Flyway. Crosses Agahaming Park + Preserve
in Winona. Important nesting & feeding site for
listed (rare, threatened, endangered) species

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
but also large gardens + orchard; Spectacular
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I live in Pleasant Valley along Side ^{Winona} County Road 17
in Wilson Township. I have retired and will
sell my home in next few years. Power line
nearby (2-4 miles) and under which I will have
to drive will decrease the value of my property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

- crosses Native ~~land~~ ridge Side ^{Pleasant} ~~Valley~~
- crosses near or over Native American ^{Winona}
burial sites (depending on precise location)

Fragments Miss Valley Bluff forests which are
critical for small bird migration + feeding/resting spots

crosses through Winona's Agassiz Park + Preserve -
a wildlife Refuge + home to bird + mammal species
concern species

Power line corridor construction will vastly spread
invasive species of a major concern here: common + glossy buckthorn,
garlic mustard, leafy spurge, honeysuckle, Queen Anne's lace,
wild parsnip

I-163-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-163-002

Per view

Apparently did not mention that U.S. electricity needs are falling for past several years - as described in Wall Street Journal and several technical/scientific journals I subscribe to.

I-163-003

~~Adequately~~ Did not adequately address fairness of me and most other Minnesota residents in paying for power lines when the power is not coming from power lines beyond for points east of Minnesota should NOT be at our expense.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: C. Jefferson

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 28067 County Rd 17

City: Winnetka

State: MN

Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-163-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-163-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-002.

I-163-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-163-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-163-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-005.

I-163-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wauwaminigo - MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety

I-164-002 ☒ Other: Effects on farmers working streambeds and defibrillations

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

1st Live goes threw - farmers with defibrillations operating machinery can't get close to the line, will have to hire people to work fields + harvest close to + under lines.

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[REDACTED]

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

I-164-001

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property Value Decreasing

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-164-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-164-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Robert W. Kettner

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 48820 County 55 Blvd.

City: Pine Island State: MN Zip Code: 55963

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-356-8124

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? PLAINVIEW

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

I-165-001

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need AS PLANNED NOW, IN NORTHEAST ROCHESTER, IF THE B120 LINE IS USED, THIS WOULD PLACE A 61KV, 164KV, AND 345KV LINE ALL WITHIN A 1/2 MILE OF EACH OTHER. WHY NOT USE OR UPGRADE THE EXISTING 69KV OR 161KV LINES? AGAIN WHY NOT USE EXISTING ROUTES?
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings) THE B120 ROUTE OPTION IS PLANNED TO RUN DIRECTLY OVER THE TOP OF OUR HOME
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety — AS ABOVE, MY FAMILY AND I WILL BE LIVING RIGHT UNDERNEATH THE B120 LINE
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-165-002

PLEASE USE EXISTING ROUTES.

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I-165-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-165-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-165-001.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

NORTHEAST ROCHESTER, UNDERNEATH PLANNED B120 LINE

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-165-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed for the project to be implemented?

NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY EVERY EFFORT IS NOT BEING MADE TO USE EXISTING ROUTES AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DAVID LOWE

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 6007 65TH STREET NE

City: ROCHESTER State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 259-2925

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-165-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-165-001.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? June 23, 2009 10:00 a.m.
at Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, WI

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: Actually, all of the above are important.

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-166-004 | Eastern MN & Western WI - the driftless area, has
beautiful bluffs & valleys. The city of
La Crosse, and the nearby area, continue to
work hard to preserve the beauty of
this area. Although I don't consider the
windmills to be ugly, the idea of huge
power lines moving across MN & WI makes me
wonder if this is the correct way to produce
electricity.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-166-001

I believe Crossing the Mississippi R.
at any point will have some serious
biological impacts. Also, the footprint
of these huge poles needed for
this power lines will be much
wider than present lines. Think of
the disturbance that this will create
environmentally!

I-166-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-166-002

*the project description was fine —
purpose and need not clear
to me*

I-166-003

*I wish we could move away from the
idea of huge utilities providing
the energy needs of an area. I
wish we could move toward more
local community provision of
energy: solar panels on residences, businesses,
etc.; hydroelectricity produced by ^{runoff} rivers; using
waste gases for energy; etc.*

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Beverly J. Mach
Representing (Optional): La Crosse County Bd (^{but} my own opinions)
Mailing Address: 2538 S. 30th St.
City: La Crosse State: WI Zip Code: 54601
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-166-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-166-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-166-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-166-003.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend?

Plainview, Mn

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Proximity to Residential because of health & safety concerns. Being close to dairy farms where they would have to work under the power lines a lot, and the negative effect the lines could have on their dairy operations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

My address is 4514 Hwy 247 N.E. Elgin, MN. 55932. I live along Route B43-B118-B162 (on the map). The power line is running down the fence line behind my house which is within 25 yards of the fence. There is also two other residential homes ^{neighbors} in close proximity to where the line would be running. I believe that routes B-93-B159-B162, ~~or~~ B93-B161-B160 would be a better alternative with less impact on homes, dairy farms and agriculture use.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

Recreational because of closehess to homes with health and safety concerns, the effect on the land with the operation of Dairy farms and other agriculture use in the project area.

I-167-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I would just say that the people in the project areas being considered need to be kept updated.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Glenn Malwitz

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4514 Hwy 247 N.E.

City: Elgin State: MN Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-951-0170

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview Mn June 16/09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I have A DAIRY Farm with crops
and ALFALFA. I AM IN ALFALFA FIELDS
20 times year cutting RAKING, Baling, feeding,
etc. will have to work AROUND LINES
and under these LINES every Spring, Summer & Fall
See MAP showing contours & STRIPS

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

"See Attached"

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eldon Malwitz

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 10852 40th AVE NE

City: Elgin State: MN Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 273-8985

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Special uses and circumstances on our property that should be considered when assessing the Project.

Our property is located in Sec 16 Farmington Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota.

The Capx 2020 electric lines are proposed to run down the middle of our property. Our Dairy farm has very hilly land and we therefore have a large number of crop contours on our farm. We have a high proportion of Alfalfa hay production because of rolling land (*See Reference #1*). We harvest our hay 4 times a year we spend a lot of time in the alfalfa fields. We plant the hay, spray for insects, fertilize the hay, cut the hay, rake the hay, bale the hay each harvest so we are on the land at least 20 times a year. This will make the power lines inconvenient for us versus a corn and soybean farmer which may go over their land 3 times a year. **We think a better solution is to run the power line to County RD 11 (B160 on the map) and then go south on Co Rd 11 because it will not be running down the middle of the fields and instead will be on the edge of Co RD 11 or to run the power line down B159.**

There are 3 dairy farms along the current proposal that will be badly affected by the power lines and there are **no** dairy farms along Co Rd 11(B160) or down route (B159). There are also a lot less farm residences on Co Rd 11 and down route B159 than under the current proposal.

The proposal of running the power line through the middle of our land is going to decrease the value of our land substantially. You can imagine the financial impact this will have on us. Even if we never sell the property, and our children inherit the land, it reduces the value that we or our future generations can borrow against the land. If the power lines can be run down on the edge of a road it will not put as much financial hardship on our farm property that is why we also like running the power line down Co Rd 11(B160) or down B159.

We also understand that the easement rights will be half as expensive if the power line is shifted to a road versus down the middle of our property. We therefore believe there are better alternatives than the current on running through the middle of our farm.

I-168-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-168-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project and socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Watched on TV - Winona City Hall

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: See Document

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

1. Court challenges and legal costs of valuations for taken/condemned property in a municipal environment.
2. Impact on housing and future development for residential, agricultural, and industrial land use needs.
3. Impact on the number of potential jobs lost.
4. Impact on the potential loss of tourist infusion into the community.
5. Impact on safety issues such as downed lines from tornadoes, ice storms and various other safety concerns for individuals, schools, and industries.
6. Impact on communications (cell phones) and health concerns.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

1. The esthetic view from my home looks at the beautiful wooded bluffs that would be destroyed or denuded of those trees and replaced by huge ugly power poles and lines.
2. The distance from my property is within a couple of blocks or very close proximity to my property damaging the current and future land use of this area. It would diminish my homes value and ability to sell it at all or for it's true financial value creating a significant monetary loss on my investment.
3. I have a very fragile health and any additional electromagnetic forces could result in further damage to my immune system resulting in premature death. It would be a concern for anyone's health.
4. My husband is an amateur radio operator and the electromagnetic forces including the associated radiation

I-169-001

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational,

1. Our environmental and esthetic resources in our valley are vital to tourism for the beauty of the Bluffs and the recreational use of the Bridges Golf Course. Touring Midwest bicycle group comes here yearly to be challenged by the bluffs route on Hwy. 17 as well as a yearly classic automobile clubs to tour up our Hwy. 17. This is an important tourist city and county bringing in significant tourist financial impact for our community.
2. The bluffs are also to be protected because it was the home to the Dakota Indians and there are concerns and evidence that their may be burial sights in the bluff ridge line caves and valley Native American artifacts that might be damaged in the proposed power line project.
3. From a biological standpoint, I am not only concerned about the regional and migrating birds, rare or endangered animals and delicate and perhaps endangered plant species in the proposed path of these lines, but I am very concerned about the health and human exposure to the electromagnetic forces and radiation. The proposed lines would be within blocks of our Middle School, and would expose and endanger the young lives of all of our entire school district children. It is also within, I believe a mile of our Vocational School. It has been proven in research studies that these line have been a contributing factor in the rise of Leukemia and Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome as presented at the International CFS Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 2006. I still have the research paper in my file. Our most valuable resource is the lives and health of our children.
4. Land use for future industrial and residential expansion in our community would be significantly damaged with enormous financial loss to the city and adjacent townships land owners. We have very precious little land as it is and to have this taken away from us either directly or by proximity to the lines would be devastating.
5. These lines would also more than likely interfere with sensitive electronic equipment used in our manufacturing plants and also expose our workers to potential spark and static electrical interference or fires with combustible materials adjacent to the lines. There is a large ethanol distributing facility, polymer composites, and sensitive electronic manufacturing in the immediate proximity to the lines. This could be a dangerous and damaging mix. Another valuable resource at risk are jobs and the safety of workers.

I-169-003

I-169-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-169-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-169-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Document is attached.

1. There was inadequate discussion on alternatives to large transmission lines, such as regional power plants with lower voltage distribution in areas of need. (Example: Minneapolis and Rochester are growing. They could now be serviced by the construction of a nuclear power plant between those two developing areas reducing the need for long distance super high voltage power lines spread over a long distance with the accompanying loss of electrical energy along this proposed distribution grid.
2. There was no discussion of the use of hydroelectric generation along the Mississippi River water way at the existing dams that have been built to accommodate electrical generation. (I know the engineer that was in charge of the renovation of several of the dams in recent years).
3. There was no discussion of the East and West Coast Blackouts due to just one inline problem that took the whole grid system down a few years ago. With regional isolated grids with several smaller strategically placed power plants, wind, solar, water and clean coal (new scrubbers) along with new technology nuclear, we could minimize the safety of the whole country not going black.
4. There was not discussion of electrical regulation that would monitor monopoly purchase and sale/exchanges of electricity on this large grid. Who would pay for all of the infrastructure and impacts? Who would benefit, certainly not Winona?
5. With newer computers, monitors, televisions, lights, and other electrical appliances using less electricity than before, there was no attempt from what I could see to update future demand estimates based on new information.
6. Has natural gas burn off in the coal fields or refineries ever evaluated for capturing and use to generate steam powered regional electrical power?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 - 454 - 3800

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

leonemauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

Re: Public Scoping Meeting For An Environmental Impact Statement
CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:


I oppose the development of the **CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project** through the proposed Winona corridor which will cross the Mississippi River.

Negative Impacts include:

- 1) Environmental issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor. The environmental issues include plant and wildlife species.
- 2) Health issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor.
- 3) Impact on residential development along the proposed Winona corridor.

The limited amount of residential land available limits the development of a strong industrial base. The lack of housing diminishes the opportunity for manufacturing development.
- 4) Impact on manufacturing development along the proposed Winona Corridor; and, the concurrent decrease in manufacturing positions.
- 5) Tourism will experience the negative aspect as related to the natural beauty of this area; including the bluff lands.

Sincerely yours,



Leone J. Mauszycki

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1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

leonejmauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

Re: Public Scoping Meeting For An Environmental Impact Statement
CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

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Sincerely yours,



Leone J. Mauszycki

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

My property:

I am concerned for the devaluation of my property because of the following:

1. The esthetic view from my home looks at the beautiful wooded bluffs that would be destroyed or denuded of those trees and replaced by huge ugly power poles and lines.
2. The distance from my property is within a couple of blocks or very close proximity to my property damaging the current and future land use of this area. It would diminish my homes value and ability to sell it at all or for it's true financial value creating a significant monetary loss on my investment.
3. I have a very fragile health and any additional electromagnetic forces could result in further damage to my immune system resulting in premature death. It would be a concern for anyone's health.
4. My husband is an amateur radio operator and the electromagnetic forces including the associated radiation would significantly impair his radio reception or broadcasting. He also has used his abilities and station for civil defense and emergency services which have been vital for storm and other emergency services to our region.
- I-169-004 5. The power lines would probably interfere with our radio and TV reception since the main TV, Radio, and Internet service line is not buried in our area leaving it fully exposed in the air to noise interference creating fuzzy TV pictures as well as radio static and internet difficulties with grounding etc.

Sensitive Resources:

1. Our environmental and esthetic resources in our valley are vital to tourism for the beauty of the Bluffs and the recreational use of the Bridges Golf Course. Touring Midwest bicycle group comes hear yearly to be challenged by the bluffs route on Hwy. 17 as well as a yearly classic automobile clubs to tour up our Hwy. 17. This is an important tourist city and county bringing in significant tourist financial impact for our community.
2. The bluffs are also to be protected because it was the home to the Dakota Indians and there are concerns and evidence that their my be burial sights in the bluff/ridge line caves and valley Native American artifacts that might be damaged in the proposed power line project.

I-169-004

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

3. From a biological standpoint, I am not only concerned about the regional and migrating birds, rare or endangered animals and delicate and perhaps endangered plant species in the proposed path of these lines, but I am very concerned about the health and human exposure to the electromagnetic forces and radiation. The proposed lines would be within blocks of our Middle School, and would expose and endanger the young lives of all of our entire school district children. It is also within, I believe a mile of our Vocational School. It has been proven in research studies that these line have been a contributing factor in the rise of Leukemia and Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome as presented at the International CFS Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 2006. I still have the research paper in my file. Our most valuable resource is the lives and health of our children.
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Project Description:

1. There was inadequate discussion on alternatives to large transmission lines, such as regional power plants with lower voltage distribution in areas of need. (Example: Minneapolis and Rochester are growing. They could now be serviced by the construction of a nuclear power plant between those two developing areas reducing the need for long distance super high voltage power lines spread over a long distance with the accompanying loss of electrical energy along this proposed distribution grid.
2. There was no discussion of the use of hydroelectric generation along the Mississippi River water way at the existing dams that have been built to accommodate electrical generation. (I know the engineer that was in charge of the renovation of several of the dams in recent years).

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

3. There was no discussion of the East and West Coast Blackouts due to just one inline problem that took the whole grid system down a few years ago. With regional isolated grids with several smaller strategically placed power plants, wind, solar, water and clean coal (new scrubbers) along with new technology nuclear, we could minimize the safety of the whole country not going black.
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5. With newer computers, monitors, televisions, lights, and other electrical appliances using less electricity than before, there was no attempt from what I could see to update future demand estimates based on new information.
6. Has natural gas burn off in the coal fields or refineries ever evaluated for capturing and use to generate steam powered regional electrical power?

Other Key Issues:

1. Court challenges and legal costs of valuations for taken/condemned property in a municipal environment.
2. Impact on housing and future development for residential, agricultural, and industrial land use needs.
3. Impact on the number of potential jobs lost.
4. Impact on the potential loss of tourist infusion into the community.
5. Impact on safety issues such as downed lines from tornadoes, ice storms and various other safety concerns for individuals, schools, and industries.
6. Impact on communications (cell phones) and health concerns.

Thomas E. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

tmauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

Public Scoping Meeting For An Environmental Impact Statement
CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

I-170-001 I oppose the development of the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project through the proposed Winona corridor which will cross the Mississippi River.

Negative Impacts include:

- 1) Environmental issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor. The environmental issues include plant and wildlife species.
- 2) Health issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor.
- 3) Impact on residential development along the proposed Winona corridor.
- 4) Impact on manufacturing development along the proposed Winona Corridor; and, the concurrent decrease in manufacturing positions.
- 5) Tourism will experience the negative aspect as related to the natural beauty of this area; including the bluff lands.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas E. Mauszycki D.D.S.

I-170-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview 6/16/2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Costs to clear land

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

- Our land is enrolled in the
Land Stewardship program.
- The value of our property will be greatly
reduced.
- Our plans to sell our property in the near
future will be difficult until the actual
route is defined.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Biological. Section B32 runs along our
southern border. The entire area of which consists
of woods and a fence row. The fence row is a stand
of 100 year old oak trees. Habitat for bees, birds and
mammals will be eliminated along with a much
needed wind break. You could not build a
power line in a worse place.

Please see our attached memo.

I-171-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Yes.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Daniel & Jane McCann, 55743 299th Ave. Millville MN 55955

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

CapX2020 Environmental Concerns

I-171-003

Section B32 of the proposed CapX power line runs along the southern border of our property. The entire area of which consists of woods and a fencerow. The fencerow is a stand of 100-year-old oak trees. These trees, along with a wide swatch of grass underneath, have been left undisturbed for years and for good reason. It provides habitat for pheasants, deer, turkeys and birds. Bees nest in multiple trees and migrating Monarch butterflies use it to rest during migration. Sitting high on a ridge, the fencerow provides a much-needed windbreak to prevent land erosion.

I-171-002

We purchased this land in 1996. Shortly after purchase we enrolled the land in the Minnesota Land Stewardship program. Our desire to protect this land was our intent, and now more than ever remains our passion. In our opinion, optional routes along roads and exiting easements should be used for the proposed power line.

Consider the current environmental conditions. Bee's; a vital link in our existence are on the decline. Pheasants find fewer places to inhabit due to fewer fencerows and a decline in CRP acres. Think about all the efforts and money spent by the ASCS to limit land erosion. Groups like Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the Sierra club, donate large amounts of time and dollars to protect and provide habitat. Who hasn't been exposed to today's hottest buzzwords, "Going Green" and "environmentally friendly"?

To ignore such efforts and build a power line forever destroying vital habitat would be a shame. To hold public environmental meetings only to proceed without total regard to public interest would be hypocrisy. To disrupt the ecosystem when other options are available would demonstrate profound irresponsibility.

"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent thinking".
Aldo Leopold.

Daniel & Jane McCann
55743 299th Ave.
Millville MN 55957

I-171-002

Your comment has been noted. Conservation easements and other existing types of property arrangements are evaluated by the applicant during the routing and siting phase of the project.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-171-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue , SW., Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Ms. Strength,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed route for the CapX2020 transmission lines.

This would make a very dangerous situation for my flying neighbors and myself as the towers would be constructed only a half mile away from our runway and directly in the traffic pattern.

We all moved to this airpark community because of our love of aviation. This proposed route would cause a huge devalue of our homes as well.

Please reconsider the problems this would cause to our wonderful community.



Marilyn J Niccum
4311 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-172-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
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We all moved to this airport community because of our love of aviation. This proposed route would cause a huge devalue of our homes as well.

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Michael F Niccum
4311 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088

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